

City of Torrance Community Services Department
Recreation Division
3031 Torrance Blvd., Torrance CA 90503 618-2930

**Torrance Youth Council
Children's Defense Fund- Torrance Project
12th Annual "Beat the Odds" Celebration
Selection Guidelines**

Applications are due March 23, 2009

The Torrance Youth Council is an advisory body to the City Council on issues pertaining to youth. The Council is comprised of 18 high school students from the four Torrance Unified high schools, Bishop Montgomery, C.A.M.S., Shery and two members at large. Youth Council is involved in such diverse projects as: Junior State of America, ASB Joint Meeting, THE ATTiC, Youth Forum, ASB Bowl, Community Service, as well as a large fundraising and donation program.

The Torrance Youth Council developed their "**Beat the Odds**" program in 1996 as a way to celebrate and underscore the positive potential of our City's youth. This scholarship honors those graduating high school seniors who have overcome obstacles, large or small and who have contributed to the well being of others in their community.

The Torrance Youth Council is looking to honor these deserving students with *\$1,000.00 scholarships* to use towards their continuing education. The criteria is to have overcome odds in their personal or academic lives, have improved their lives and the lives of others, or have shown strength and determination by achieving excellence in a certain area despite encountering obstacles. Applicants must reside in Torrance.

Each school is asked to encourage all qualifying students to submit an application, and we ask that each school submit at least five applicants. If you have more than five, please call Youth Council Liaison, Deborah Reed, at (310) 618-2949.

Scholarship winners will be honored at the 12th annual "**Beat the Odds**" celebration dinner Thursday evening May 7, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. please plan accordingly.

Please mail completed application to:

City of Torrance Youth Council
c/o Youth Council Liaison
3031 Torrance Blvd.
Torrance, CA 90503

**Torrance Youth Council
“Beat the Odds” Scholarship**

Guidelines

Nominees must be:

- Torrance Residents (must live in the City of Torrance)
- Seniors enrolled in a high school located in the City of Torrance with graduation imminent.
- Must complete the application and turn in all information requested by the deadline.

Nominees should be:

- Currently possessing and also maintaining a grade point average showing marked effort, improvement or success. (not merit based academically)
- Succeeding despite, but not limited to, hardships such as poverty, disability, homelessness or personal tragedy. Must demonstrate an ability to overcome obstacles
- Participating in activities helpful to others with in your family, church or community; such as volunteerism or other forms of community involvement.

If you have any questions, please call Youth Council Liaison, Deborah Reed, at (310) 618-2949.